GUIDE TO THE RD1 UKRAINE FILE

/The Ukraine, a constituent republic of the U.S.S.R., is the second largest soviet republic in population and in economic potentialities. It is bordered on the southwest and west by Rumania, the Moldavian SSR, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland; on the northwest by the Belorussian SSR, and on the northeast and east by the Russian SFSR. The Ukraine is subdivided into political units called oblast' and raion similar to other territories of the Soviet Union. There are no longer any other subordinate units of administration (such as the krai, okrug, and autonomous republics, as found elsewhere in the U.S.S.R.).

There appears to be reasonable justification for identifying eight culturally distinct ethnic groups within the political boundaries of Ukrainian SSR. These are the Boiki, Lemki, Hutsul, Galicians, Cossacks, Black Sea Ukrainians, Central Ukrainians, and Left Bank Ukrainians. The Boiki, Lemki and Hutsul are Carpathian mountaineers living in sub-Carpathian Ruthenia. They are culturally distinct because of their long, relative isolation and their history of variable Hungarian and Slovakian influences. Galicians include those Ukrainians living northwest of the former (1919-1939) Polish boundary and southeast of the present (1939-) Polish boundary. The history of Europeanization in this area justifies its differentiation from other groups in this file. Zaporogian Cossacks as a socially organized group no longer exist but their influence on Ukrainian culture is extensive and their historical importance as a frontier people makes their inclusion as a separate group mandatory. Black Sea, Central and Left Bank Ukrainians are probably legitimate ethnic subdivisions but as yet no indication has been found that these groups are treated separately in the literature. Therefore, the file user will find no file slips so headed.

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The RD1 Ukraine file consists of twenty sources, two of which are translations from the German. The period covered in the file is roughly from about 1917-1953 with some historical data going as far back as the 12th century (8: Fedenko). Most of the subject material is based on secondary sources, with the majority being written by social scientists, ethnologists and historians, and the remainder (one source each) by a government official, journalist, artisan and by the Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic (the constitution).

The sources providing the best general background for the file are 3: Mirchuk (which presents information on the land and its people, economics, and cultural life) and 17: UNRRA (a brief summary of the Ukrainian SSR). Of particular emphasis in many of the sources in this file are the concepts of Ukrainian nationalism and relations with the Soviet Union (including data on acculturation). This information may be found in sources 2: Timoshenko, 4: Allen, 5: Manning, 6: Armstrong, 7: Bregy and Obolensky, 8: Fedenko, 9: Prothero, 10: Weinstein, 11: Obermaier, and 15: Pap. Ukrainian history which is also well represented in the file will be found in sources: 4: Allen, 7: Bregy and Obolensky, 8: Fedenko, 9: Prothero, and 11:Obermaier. Religion is covered in: 1: Reshetar (covering the struggle between the Russian and Ukrainian Orthodox churches), 5: Manning, 9: Prothero, 11: Obermaier, and 20, 21 and 22: Koenig. Some limited demographic data may be found in 6: Armstrong (the population of Ukrainian cities), 8: Fedenko, and 7: Bregy and Obolensky. Other aspects of Ukrainian ethnography more lightly covered in this file are as follows:

education -- 7: Bregy and Obolensky, and 10: Weinstein
geography -- 7: Bregy and Obolensky, 9: Prothero, and 11: Obermaier
politics -- 7: Bregy and Obolensky, 9: Prothero and 11: Obermaier
overseas Ukrainians -- 8: Fedenko
social conditions -- 9: Prothero and 17: UNRRA

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agriculture -- 11: Obermaier, and 17: UNRRA
fine arts -- 12: Buraček
life cycle events -- 21: Koenig (on death) and 23: Koenig (on birth)
magic -- 20: Koenig
child care -- 23: Koenig
the constitution of the Ukraine -- 16: American Russian Institute.

It should be noted that sources 20, 21, 22 and 23: Koenig all deal with the Galician Ukrainians. Source 24: Čech and Mellon, originally found in the Czechoslovakia file, has been processed for the Ukraine file because of its data on Carpathian Ruthenia (pp. 158-170), particularly in reference to summary material on pre-World War II Ruthenia.

This file is considerably dated in the material it contains and should be used with caution by the researcher./

Processed in 1955-1956